

2019

# **[SURVEY FOR THE VACANCY OF THE BENEFICE OF CHRIST CHURCH WITH ST MARY'S]**

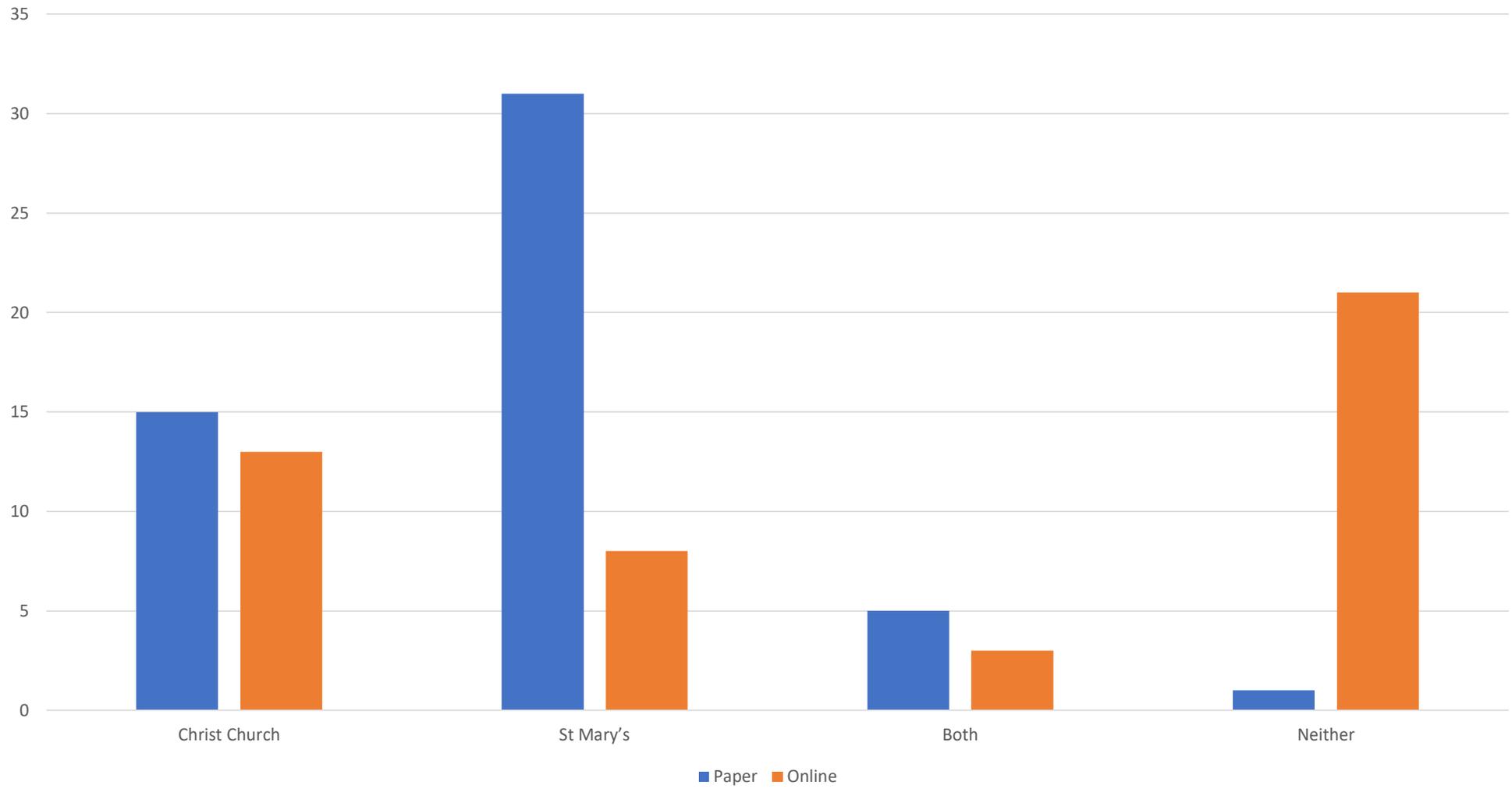
Results of the surveys undertaken in Frome Christchurch with St Mary's

- 97 surveys returned
- 52 on paper, 45 online
  - Surveys handed out to congregations,
  - on website
  - Hall user groups engaged and email lists
  - Facebook advertising

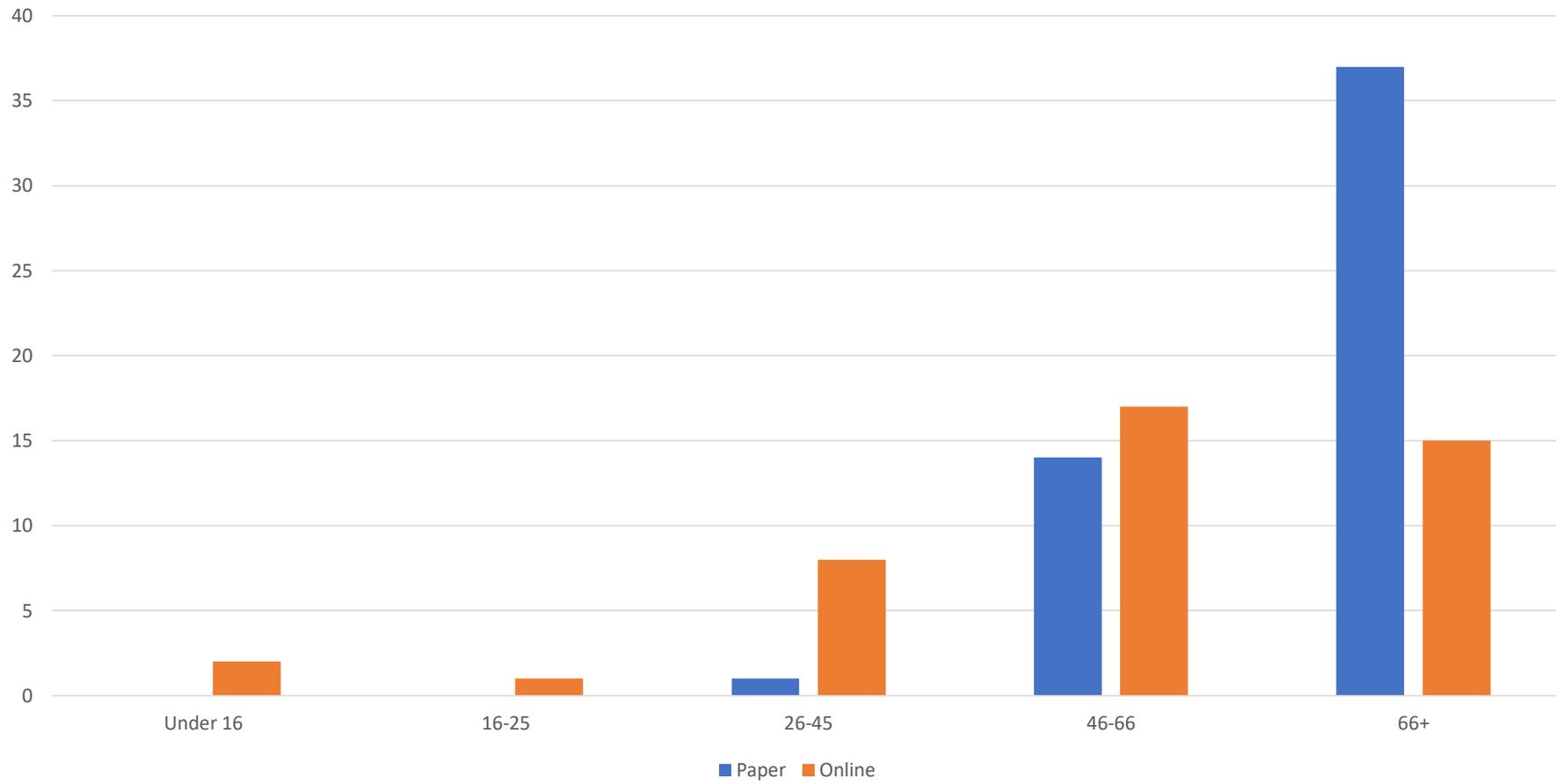
### Q3 How relevant do you feel these churches are to you?

- Done un slightly different ways on paper and online
  - Online there was a slider and people asked between 0 and 100.
  - Average was 63
  - On paper people asked between 1 and 5 (5 = very relevant)
  - No score below 3!
  - 3 = 2 responses
  - 4 = 11 responses
  - 5 = 37 responses
-

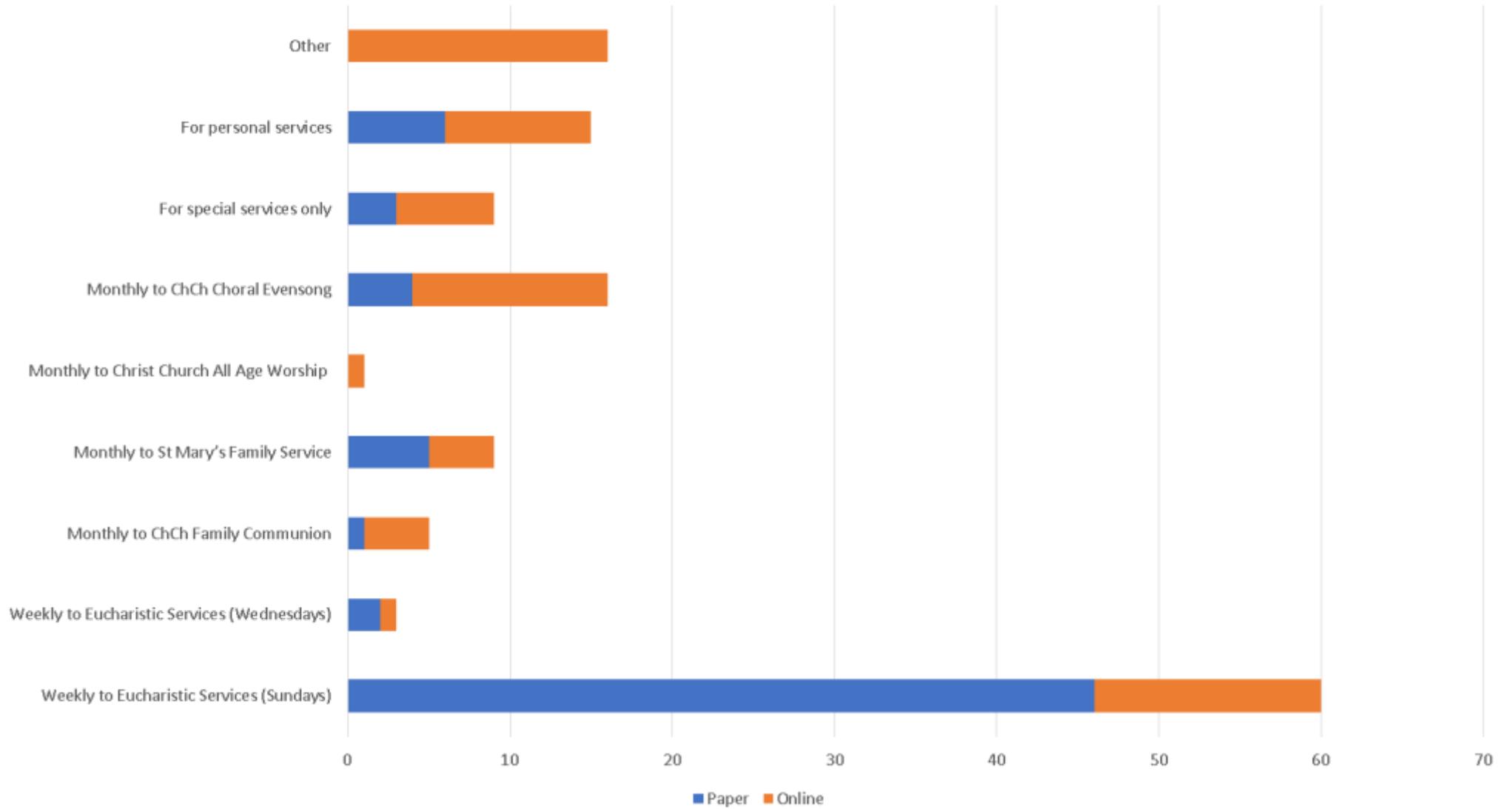
### Q1 Which of the churches do you attend regularly?



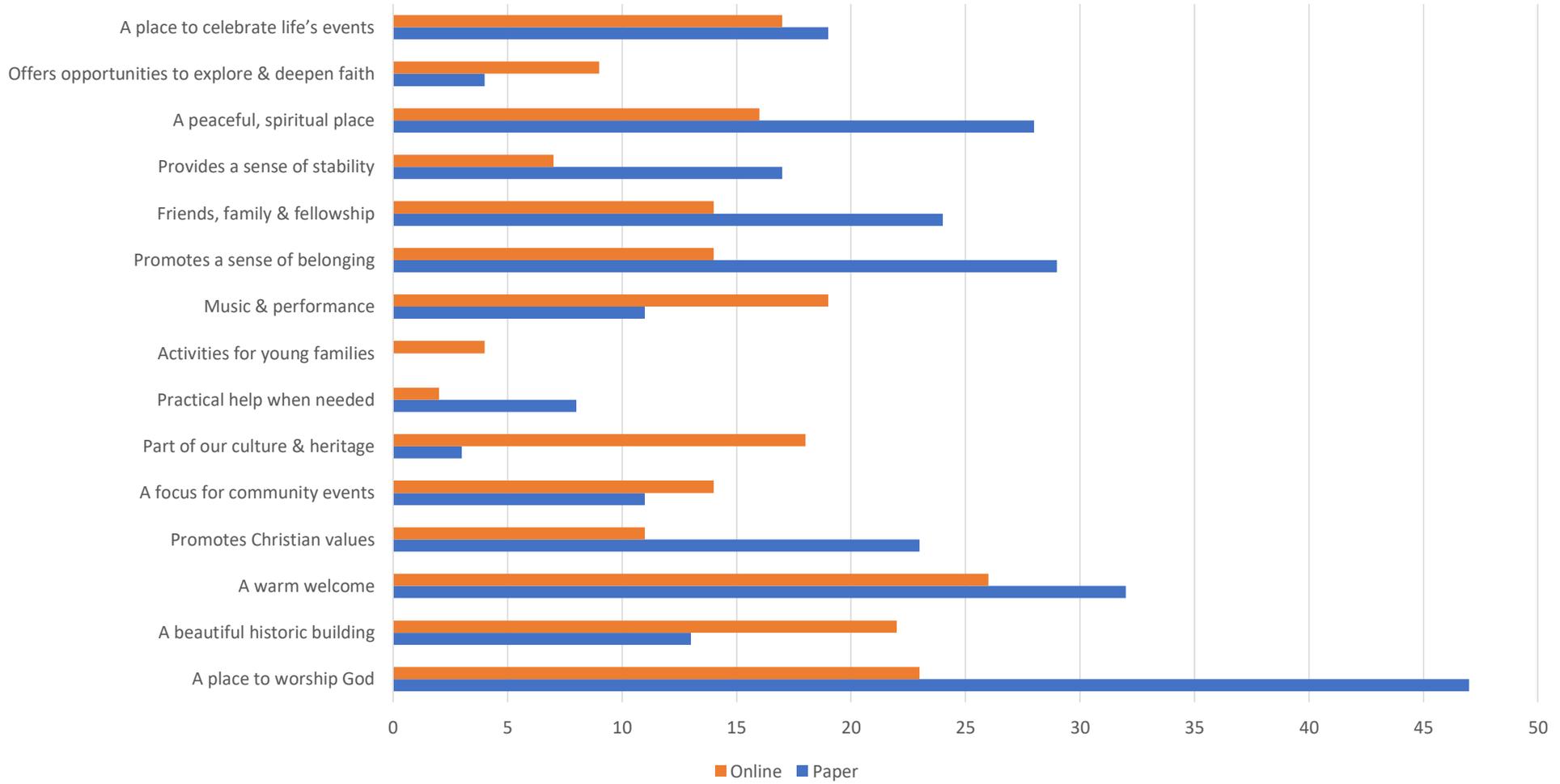
### Q8 Please tell us what age group you are in.



### Q2 How often do you attend Christ Church and/or St Mary's



Q4 Please tick up to 5 things that you value most about these churches.



## What people value

Being part of the traditional Anglican cycles and seasons    A place to renew one's faith and hope

Some uplifting theology                      Exploring spirituality and worship

A place for growing faith                      The traditional forms of worship

Everyone promoting Christian values and friendship, supporting each other through life's challenges

The preachers are all good                      I feel it is my Christian home                      The quality of the choir

The people and the music                      Richness of music in worship                      Special musical events

The musical tradition                      Chance to participate in good liturgical music

Making music and meeting friends    Involvement in music making                      The music

It is a privilege to share in the enthusiasm and life of the community

Although I am an "outsider" I am always received with a friendly and Courteous welcome, so I feel I am accepted into the Church community

I've always felt welcome                      The kindness of (and towards) strangers

That it's always there for me                      A sense of belonging (a spiritual home)

Being with like-minded people                      Offering to contribute knowledge and experience

Feeling valued                      I cannot claim to be a full member but have been in the past

I enjoyed the fellowship and shared appreciation of beauty in worship and contemplation and the light of services and the openness to new approaches, like the ministry of women

You allow me to float on a scale of detached through semi-detached to attached

The warmth & companionship & friendliness of the people

Being welcomed by the community    The strange rituals

Support during times of difficulty even when no practical help can be given

Warmth, friendship and, for the most part, the acceptance that is shown to everyone whatever their background, current circumstances; even when there are disagreements we don't "fall out" or hold grudges - it's a real family.

It's socially liberal and there is lots going on in the town. The church is part of this, but we could do better

People are trying to live out God's love, and trying to be caring

It is lovely to welcome new people into the church family

I like being a member of a good team who support each other with friendship and fun and love. We are a mad bunch and that's what makes it good. You are never lonely at St Mary's. You always have good friends around you to help in difficult times in your life

The warm welcome at St Mary's

The friendliness of the congregation at St Mary's

Friendly community and inspiring sermons St Mary's has been very welcoming

We have been impressed by the hard work keeping all the services going during the difficult time – well done

A sense of belonging, community, fellowship and equality

LOVE, LAUGHTER & FAITH IN ACTION

Open to newcomers

Welcoming and friendly

Everyone is very friendly but I like to attend church without feeling a need to be part of the community. I enjoy quiet prayer & hymns

I am made to feel I belong – especially on my first visit. I always feel welcome

I enjoy the services and feel they are conducted well

Warmth, fellowship, sense of belonging

It has a very welcoming atmosphere

Companionship

The people look after each other when the chips are down

The warmth of friendship

The people

The sense of team spirit, especially the willingness of retired Clergy and others who have ensured the continuing of the weekly services

The friendship and welcome of other church members

Being a small church encourages fellowship For all the kindness and friendship

A sense of being valued

The sense of wellbeing

Support

Having friends who look out for me

A feeling of being welcome and a part of a genuinely caring community

I feel help would be at hand in an hour of need for me and the community

There is a warmth – but I worry about its future

A friendly helpful community always ready to welcome and help me

Time & space

Socialising

St Mary's Breakfast Club

Various socials St Mary's put on

A sense of being supported and prayed for and offering this to others

It is a community of diverse Christians who are welcoming and friendly to one another and newcomers or visitors. and we value the company of others with whom to share our faith.

I am not a regular church goer, but I like to think St Mary's is my church

The churches welcome many of the pupils that attend our school and it is important for them to make that link between their Christian teaching in both places

Access to a beautiful building with a great history

There is a strong sense of belonging and mutual support

Willingness to look forward to the future/ to embrace change as progress

Belonging to the community

Resilience

I have been part of St Mary's for over 30 years, through attending as a child, as a new Christian in my 20s and latterly as a visitor. It has always been a church which welcomes all and I love returning to visit. The people who meet there are part of my 'home' life and of many happy memories.

Feeling of fellowship and belonging to a group of likeminded and caring people who have the same values as I do

I get to meet an interesting mix of people I would never have met otherwise /The building, the space has a presence all of its own

## Worship including music

The wider congregation taking a more active part in running the church, particularly the services

More frequent joint service at both St Mary's and Christ Church

More women Clergy involved

Don't spend so long offering peace – it has become a socialising 5/10 mins in the middle of the service – very cliquey and can make others feel excluded. Just a handshake with you neighbours is all that is needed

Relevance welcome promoting the Gospel Greater variety of services

I would hope that many different ways of worship could be offered to God and people

The two churches to work more closely together - share resources

Variation of service content. The services at present comprise the same format each week – too repetitious

Sunday services later than 9 am

Sung Mass to return to 10 am at Christ Church or even 9.30

Change in service pattern. Neither church likes current Sunday morning service times. Suggest alternating 8 am and 10 am services at Christ Church and St Mary's

More involvement by members of the congregation in services, including new servers recruit

No changes – to continue as it is now                      Establish values

Would like less emphasis on Communion services – would like more Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline

Return of Sunday school for young children i.e. activities etc                      Children's Sunday School

Mid-week Church Club similar to Clink Church (60 – 70 children attend Russell's Church Club on Wednesdays at 5.30 – 6.30 pm)

With no families attending, the end of the Family Service on the 1st Sunday of the month at Christ Church



## Discipleship/Growing in Faith

More connection with other denominations and faiths

Spiritual growth and depth to be encouraged

Increasing profile within the community

To keep up with the changing world, opening up and helping people in need

Development of community focus and purpose

Encouragement to grow in faith - through the example of a good Priest and broader friendships in the churches

Stronger links with the community, increasing congregation

Development of links with local schools

Bible or Christian related study group

Regeneration of groups with a community and wider focus, e.g. Mothers' Union

Getting more people to walk through the doors of the church and make them feel the space is a space for them too. It's extraordinary how few people know where the church is whenever I mention "Christ Church" to them

Always have a sidesperson on duty at Christ Church choral Evensong

Increase in numbers / larger congregations

Attracting more young people (i.e. under 40s!)

Social activities/groups e.g. organise visits/outings/trips

Continuing friendship and social events

More social interaction

More flexibility in services to include the local community – tradition on its own is not enough

## Children, young people and outreach

Youth activities – e.g. Youth Club/groups

Promote family events

An increase in congregation, particularly younger people    More children attending

Welcome young families with small children

Encourage more young people and families to use our churches as their place of worship

More events to bring the community together other than on Sunday

I would like the church to serve the community even more    More people visiting

Community functions

More interaction in the community

Used as a hub for community events

A more active role in the Parish

A large enough congregation to provide staffing, so that the church can be open to all for more than just services

Do more things in the community and in the limelight

More outreach in practical matters in conjunction with Fair Frome, Citizens advice, Youth Routes etc - and if this already happens, more publicity!

Involving the church in the life of the town: next time someone comes up with an idea to involve the church in the life of the community by contributing to the town's effort in helping refugees, don't slam the door in her face. On the same topic, let's hope the next Priest will not be the sort who sends emails trying to justify the door-slaming by arguing the refugees are not real refugees because they are "economic migrants."

More outreach to the local community

Attract a more diverse congregation

## Communications

Stronger publicity

Better communications

Broader explanations Historical reference

More involvement of the whole congregation not just the few

As I don't attend services, I can't answer this. As a concert-goer, I've wondered if there's been enough advertising of events, but this might not be Christ Church 's responsibility

One magazine to cover both churches

Greater transparency in the running and administration of Christ Church

Visible, encouraging churchwardens

Meetings with lunches

St Mary's has been used a spiritual football over the years, being kicked between other Frome parishes. When a separate parish it thrived and it was sad to see that reversed - although that has developed a resilience within the current congregation.

St Mary's has a vicarage on site! It is important that St Mary's is allowed to maintain its own tradition - it is the only Church in Frome not identified with a strong 'churchmanship'. It is a church that needs cherishing so that it can cherish its parish

More publicity for special services in local media and on social media

Greater consultation with and participation by PCC councillors in decisions and initiatives

Work closely with Frome town council next door to provide a venue for a wider range of community events

Wider discussion of current challenges and sharing of tasks

Promoting the church to new younger families

Amalgamation of Christ Church & St Mary's - make one the worship/spiritual centre -- the other for community/educational events (diversification)

## Buildings and money

Chairs instead of pews

Clear a space for concerts

Space for the church choirs singing for us at St Mary's

I would like to see more effort by the congregation in the upkeep of the church

Removal of exterior plastic panels over the windows

More heating during winter at Christ Church

Renovation of hall and freshen up church interior

Declutter Christ Church and give it a lick of paint

I would hope to see the project to mend the roof flourishing

More social events to raise money

More people helping with the boring day to day jobs – pulling together and not leaving everything to the few!

More people who offer help in activities

Improve the appearance of the church internally to make it more welcoming to a modern congregation

Mendip DC to create parking spaces along north side of Christ Church

Landscaping of part of churchyard to create adequate church parking for community and choral events, with a pleasant green space for relaxation and enjoyment; maybe a prayer space. Be creative

Complete redecoration and updating of interior, with comfortable seating, to create an inviting worship and community space, to make the most of our position at the centre of the community. Improved kitchen and vestry facilities to cater for more parish activities (hall being fully booked and profitable). Be bold

Repair of fabric

A community responsibility for the repairs and upkeep of the church buildings

## The Vicar – qualities we're looking for

A new Vicar to be appointed on merit regardless of their sex

St Mary's to have its own Priest again      Women Priests welcome      To have a permanent Vicar

A young permanent Vicar that is able to encourage a younger congregation

A Priest who can encourage and enable us, working inclusively to lighten everyone's load in uniting the parishes

Be prepared to have a Priest-in-Charge and not Incumbent, so that as other Frome churches become vacant a new scheme of working together with town churches and deanery could be developed

Appointment of a female Priest in Frome

Appointment of a Priest who will be involved in our churches' social activities but not spend large amounts of time socialising with particular individuals i.e. they will treat all of our churches' members equally with honesty and respect

The right person as Vicar regardless of sex

A Vicar to lead and guide      A new Vicar      Appointment of a woman Priest

Younger Clergy with modern ideas regarding Bible teaching

A Vicar who will lead us from the rudderless existence that we are now in

A permanent Vicar and pastoral care      More time with Incumbent

A clear direction for the future with a permanent Vicar in charge

A dynamic Priest

A Vicar who is happy to work with the other Anglican clergy in the town/deanery so that they can all support each other and encourage groups and activities between the different congregations so we all share and work together

A vicar wanting to teach and nurture the faith of the people e.g. by leading/encouraging bible study or prayer groups

I've no idea - my father in law was an amazing Vicar there      Have a Vicar appointed to take us forward

A Vicar able to prioritise care of people who go to the church over care of the buildings

We used to attend St Mary's until the Parish Priest showed he felt out of communion with those who supported the ordination of women. Having 'laid hands' on a woman priest we felt we were in that category

A Priest who can be part of the community at the churches - being willing to foster good relationships, offer pastoral care and bring people together

A woman Priest would be good

A new Vicar

A Vicar who reflects what Frome is today

A Priest with a sense of adventure and friendly leadership during our journey of grace

Appointment of a Priest who will put the churches first (rather than overload themselves with duties associated with "extra-curricular" organisations just because they are of special interest to them because of their personal history and then complain about the workload)

A dedicated and inspiring Rector